

A

# REVIEW

OF THE

# STATE

OF THE

# ENGLISH NATION.

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Tuesday, July 25. 1706.

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**T**HO' this Paper be a Digression from Story, and relates to a particular Case; yet I cannot omit it; 'tis a Piece of Justice to the Persons concern'd, the other part having been heard already; I make no Remarks on either side, but barely act **THE RELATOR**, and leave each to tell their own Story; having personal Authorities on both sides for what is said, ——— If I am requir'd to give my Opinion, I shall do that by it self ———

may be true, we are not concern'd to dispute; That there is a certain young Woman left with a very good Fortune, and wholly at her own Dispose; That being Lunatick, she has been taken forcibly from her Lodging, and in order to her Cure confin'd, and all the general Parts of the Proceeding we are not solicitous about: nor are we backward to own, that this has been done by the Procurement of her nearest Relations, even as they express it in the Letter, an own Mother and two Brothers; and we are not out of Hope, but that its being the Act and Deed of Persons so nearly related, will more easily perswade the thinking Part of the World to believe, that Humanity is not so entirely banished from the World, as to make it possible; that the Story can be true in all its Aggravations, as the Authors of that Letter have set forth.

**Mr. REVIEW,**  
**Y**OU having in a late Review appear'd willing to do us that Justice, which the Case requires in the Affair of the Lunatick, whose Story you told in the Review of No. 70. We take the Liberty to lay before you the true State of the Case;

That the general Part of the Story, as represented to you and by you to the World,

We shall therefore, in as short a manner as this Affair will allow, endeavour to put this Matter in a clear Light, and place the thing

in its native Dress ; strip't of those false Constructions these Gentlemen have put upon it.

In order to this, we first make it clear ; that the Behaviour of the Person gave us all the Reason in the World to believe her Lunatick : That we not only believ'd so our selves, but had the concurring Opinion of a-bundance of Witnesses, besides Physicians, and all unbiass'd in Matters of Interest ; and that we still are confirm'd in that Opinion, and believe with a *Non Obstante* to Lucid Intervals, she still remains so.

That being fix'd in our Belief of her Distemper, we thought it our Duty as Relations, to take Care of her ; and shall make it appear, that all our Proceedings with her have been suitable to our Care of her Health, and the Affection of Relations ; and that if any Violences have been offer'd, they were either such as her own Obstinacy forc'd upon her self, or unknown to any of us her Relations.

That whatever Cavils at our Methods with her, have been rais'd, our Intentions in the first place have been clear, and cannot be censur'd ; neither can any part of our Proceedings be prov'd to be disagreeing with those Intentions, or with Honesty, Affection or Prudence.

And when these things are made plain, we hope the World may have different Notions about this Matter, than they now seem to entertain.

It was not without great Concern, that we who are the nearest Relations of this young Woman had long discern'd the Distemper of her Brain ; which tho' as in her Youth it discover'd itself but in smaller Matters, yet gave us always a melancholly Prospect, and made us very justly uneasy about her.

And if the Persons, who now pretend to be her Directors, think these Suggestions unreasonable, and will force the exact History of her Life to be exhibited to publick View, in the ensuing Trials ; the World will easily judge whether it was with reason or no, that we deem'd her Lunatick.

'Twould be too tedious for this Letter to enumerate the Exursions, the Extravagancies, the Ravings and Inconsistencies, which have run thro' the whole Course of the last 7 Years of her Life.

Her Jealousie of every body's designing to murder her, her refusing to drink after either Friend or Stranger, refusing to eat with her own Father and Mother ; fancying they put Poison in her Beer and Mercury into her Cloaths, her Extravagancies in her several Lodgings, of which she has had near twenty in five Years Time to their general Dislike ; telling some their Rooms were en-

chant'd, others that the Room smok't, and they design'd to burn her ; getting out of Bed, and crying Fire in the Night ; telling others that they had poison'd the Hangings, sometimes refusing to go to Bed, and frightening the People of the Houses ; so that they have turn'd her out of Doors at Midnight ; not daring to sleep with her in the House, lest she should set it on Fire ; wearing Rags, and in Nakedness and Nastyness, exposing her self in the Streets, and a thousand Extravagancies of like Nature ; to prove the Truth of which we herewith send you Copies of Affidavits to every particular, which you may make as publick as you please.

These are but a few of the strange Circumstances of her Condition, and which have serv'd to make her the constant Affliction of her Family, and Trouble of her Relations.

It was several Years, that we bore the continual Mortification of this Behaviour, till finding it encrease, and loth to see one so near to us, and whom Providence had made so plentiful Provision for, so continually expos'd to all manner of common Insults even in the Streets, we thought it our Duty to take Care of her. And we appeal to the very many Persons in this City of good Reputation, who unanimously advis'd us to do so ; whether it did not appear to them, that she was an eminent Object of the Compassion of her Friends, and which they had been unaccountably blameable any longer to neglect.

Being thus fully convinc'd of her being wholly out of the Government of her self—We resolv'd to do what became us, to prevent her being entirely ruin'd : But in order to act both regularly with her, and safely for our selves ; foreseeing how forward the World is to censure the most sincerely intended Measures in such Cases ; We apply'd our selves to Dr. Tyson for Advice, as a Person whose Judgment we thought might be relied on.

The Dr. readily agreed with us in the Substance, viz. That the Person was a proper Object of our Care ; that she was really Lunatick, not fit to be trusted with the Government of her self, and that she ought to be lookt after. But that we, as well as himself, might act safely, and as the Law in such Cases directs, advis'd us first to take out a Commission of Lunacy—Without which, we could not proceed, neither would he meddle with her Cure, unless she was so put into the Custody of the Law in the first Place.

How the Dr. came to give any imperfect or dissatisfactory Account of this upon the Trial



Trial, we leave him to defend, he having upon all occasions given it as his Opinion, that she was a Lunatick, and wanted to be treated as such in order to her Cure—— And still affirms, that tho' he believes, she may have received some Helps from Medicine in her Confinement; yet that he is satisfied, she is yet a Lunatick, and that Time will discover it.

The Suggestions raised by the Letter, that all this was done to have the Conduct and Possession of her Estate; are so malicious, that they would merit some severe Remedy, were they not also ridiculously absurd, false in Fact, inconsistent with the Measures her Relations took; and therefore require rather the utmost Contempt than the least Resentment.

The Persons concern'd, hope their general Character and Reputation in the World, will not suffer Wise Men to censure them rashly in this part, or believe them capable of any Designs upon the Estate of their Relation; which had she treated them with the least Duty or Respect, they were always ready, as well as able, to encrease rather than diminish; and it was always their Trouble, that she would not put it into their Power to show their Care and Tendernefs for her that Way.

But if any be so hasty or Malicious, as to entertain Notions so vile of them; we refer them to examine the steps we have taken with her Estate——How when she was taken from her Lodging, we immediately inventoried all her Goods before sufficient Witnesses; how not the least Trifle has been Embezzell'd, but the Account of every thing so exactly taken, and so carefully kept, and since so publicly and punctually return'd, that tho' she is in the worst hands she can well be imagin'd to fall into, they cannot pretend the least matter is lost or Embezzell'd but every thing restor'd to her, at the first demand of the Law——And they heartily wish the Hands she is now mannag'd by, may be able to Discharge themselves with the like Care.

Next to this, We desire all that hastily take up with this Charge, to remember that we upon taking out the Commission of Lunacy a foresaid, gave such unquestioned Security to be accountable for her Estate, as no one in their Wits can reconcile to a Design of Embezzling it.

But to pass this by, as what Our Innocence of prompts us to think not worth our Notice, we proceed to the personal Treatment, which the Prosecutors are so Clamorous about.

And here we the Relations of this Person

cannot but think we have a great deal of Wrong done us, since as 'tis true on one hand, that we did entirely leave her to the Conduct and Direction of the Physician, to whose Care we committed the Matter of her Cure, and whose Reputation we hope will Clear us of any Intentional Evil, so we hope no Man will believe we did not desire she should be Treated with all possible Decency and Tendernefs, and also we did believe she was so.

At the same time we must be thought Lunatick our selves, if we did not know, that the Care, Conduct, and Cure of a Person in these Circumstances, is impossible to be undertaken without some Violence——because 'tis always a Cure against the Will of the Patient.

Absolutely necessary therefore, to the Circumstances, are the Articles of Confinement, forcible conveyance to a proper place, obliging the Patient to conform to the Directions prescrib'd by the Physician, to whose Charge the Person is Committed; so that we may conceive, the Strefs of this part of the Charge lyes upon, and will be justified by the first Enquiry, whether she was a Lunatick or no?

If she was a Lunatick, which we are sorry to say is too plain; then the tenderest and most Compassionate thing, the dearest Relation could do, was to put her into a Method of Cure.

That this must be a force, and cannot be undertaken without some Violences in Method, is the Misfortune of the Distemper, and wholly owing to the Necessity, not at all to be charg'd upon her Relations, to whom the Occasion is particularly Afflicting.

We are therefore entirely clear as to Intention, and that's the only thing we are Sollicitous about——as the only Guilt there can be in the Charge——We are perfectly easie at the Clamour rais'd by the Author's of that Letter, whose Conduct of her has already helped to make her believe them less her Friends than she thought before, and whose Designs are manifestly to get by her.

If it be suggested, she is perfectly in her Senses now; that my Lord Keeper has given his Opinion of it, and the Law has decided in her Favour.

To this we Reply, in clearing up the Integrity of her Relations, and their design in Confining her; it is not to be enquir'd whether she be Lunatick now, but whether she was so then?

And whether these People will admit us to say.



say, she has been the better for Medicine we know not ; but we cannot but think the Demonstration is in it self, as the Blind Man's in the Gospel, when they charg'd the Person that Cur'd him with being a Sinner, *I know nothing of that,* says the Man, *but this,* ———— *I know that whereas I was Blind, now I see* ———— So let her be Cur'd or no, we have nothing to say but this, we know that whereas she is now Sober she was Mad, and if she be Cured we heartily wish ———— though we much doubt it, that she may continue so.

If this part of the Story be true, it has been a happy Violence, and we Rejoyce in the Success of it ; let the Clamours at the Method of it be what they will.

However we declare, we know of no Violences or Barbarities ; we took care to provide Nurses, and necessary Persons about her, one of her nearest Relations, and perfectly Disinterested in her Affairs, was present at the carrying her away, all the tenderness possible, that could consist with her Cure, was order'd to be used. They cannot alledge she wanted any thing ; the Expence of her Treatment, and Cure, inclusive of the Doctors attendance, would have amounted at least to 300 l. per Annum, if it had continued ———— A Clause, sufficient to confute that horrid Suggestion of allowing 10l. or 20 l. per Ann. to Maintain her ———— 'Tis plain, our Design was to Cure, not to keep her ; to deliver her, not destroy her ; and we hope it will appear we have done nothing but what consists with the Duty, as well as with the Affection of the nearest Relations.

It is charged as a Crime, that we obtained a Commission of Lunacy, on a Clandestine Verdict without a sight of the Person.

We refer that to the Custom in such Cases ; only appealing to all the World, whether in Case of a Lunatick, bringing the Person can be practicable ———— First, we had no Power to bring her by force, till the Commission was obtained, which must be after the Verdict. Secondly, To have talked to her of it before, had been to have made her Mad indeed ; and ventured all the Consequences of it, before they had any Power to Restrain her, and this is what we call, saying, *She was so Mad they could not bring her.*

We conceive therefore the Custom in such Cases, and the Reason and Nature of the thing, is our sufficient Defence ; they had said more to the purpose, if they had said, the Jury found her Lunatick without sufficient Evidence, which the Reputation of their Persons, will not admit to be suggested, they being Men of known Integrity, and general good Characters in the City.

After all, the Persons to whom we committed this Lunatick, for such we must crave leave to call her still, do affirm she had no ill Usage neither.

The Apothecary, at whose House she was Lodg'd ———— And who is not so much as a Pretender to Cure Lunaticks, as they rudely suggest, has a manifest Injury in this, he being wholly unconcerned in any part of the Management of her.

He Entertained her, as Recommended by Persons of known Character and Reputation ———— And as a Person legally appointed to the Operation of Physick, which is his Profession ———— He challenges them to prove, he either concerned himself one way or other, but as an indifferent Person ; he Administer'd not the least thing to her, without the Prescription of Dr. Tyson ; the Persons that attended her, were none of his Servants, nor at his Command, but appointed by Dr. Tyson, and Paid by her Relations, and she was to him only as a Lodger in his Family.

He is so far from keeping a Mad-House, as they call it, that he never had any Lunatick in his House before ———— And the Methods and Directions of the Physicians excepted, which he thought his Duty ; he Treated her with all that Humanity and Tenderneſs, which he desires to Practise with all Mankind, or could desire to be Practised with himself in like Cases.

Thus, Sir, we have given you an Abridgement of the Case, which we desire the World may see, and we freely leave it to the Censure of all Impartial Persons.

We shall trouble our selves with no Replies, to any of their Scurrilous Returns ; We desire no Pen and Ink Skirmish with these People.

My Lord-Keeper has determined her *ſol juris*, and she is taken out of our keeping ; we doubt she is in an ill way of Cure, unless her Lunacy be in her Purſe ; whether her Solicitors will not appear more Infamous than the Apothecary, Time must discover. We have nothing to say ; 'tis most certain, she appeared Composed, and Sensible before my Lord-Keeper, which determined his Lordship in favour of her Understanding ; we heartily wish, that Lucid Interval may continue ———— We have nothing to do but to defend our Intention, as sincere and becoming us in the Relation we stand in, which we hope is effectually performed.

Your Servants,

W—H—H—